



APPROVED MINUTES

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Old Dillard Museum, 1009 NW 4th Street
June 19, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.**

Administrative Note: Minutes Approved August 21, 2008

Members	Attendance	April 2008 – March 2009 Cumulative Attendance	
		Present	Absent
Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Chair	P	3	0
Phaedra Xanthos (arr. 7:33)	P	2	1
Laura Clark	A	1	2
Klaron Grigsby	A	1	2
Lu Deaner	P	3	1
Kaola King	A	0	3
Dr. Leola McCoy	A	0	3
Elaine Schulze	P	2	1
Niara Sudarkasa	A	1	2
Maureen Witting	A	1	2
Connie Christensen	A	2	1
Gilbert Borrero	A	2	1

Total Members Present: 4

Current Membership: 12; Quorum: 8

Others Present

Betty Shelley, Fort Lauderdale Council of Civic Associations

Charmaine Eccles, Staff Liaison

Charles Webster, Broward County Public Schools Liaison

A. Opening – Dr. Hays

- **Attendance and Sign-in**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hays at 7:30 p.m.

- **Approve Minutes (May) and Agenda (June)**

As a quorum was not present, the May 15, 2008 minutes and the June agenda could not be approved. Chair Hays stated the drafted minutes would be sent to the City Commissioner so he would be informed of the business covered by the Board.

- **Introduce New Member(s)**

There were no new members to be introduced.

- **Guest Introductions**

Chair Hays introduced School Board member Robin Bartleman, who was in attendance to address the Board.

- **Announcements**

Chair Hays extended her thanks to the Old Dillard Museum for inviting the Board to meet there. She gave special thanks to Derek Davis for his assistance, and noted that the Museum's show, prior to the meeting, was very entertaining.

B. Current Business

1. Discussion item – EAB Goals, Objectives, Activities 2008

Ms. Bartleman had recently attended a SACS meeting at Sunland Park to discuss facility issues, including the playground, cafeteria doors and windows, and the fence. She informed the Board that much of this work is scheduled to begin over the summer.

Ms. Bartleman also told the Board that \$60 million had been lost from schools this year, and further cuts in the middle of the year are forthcoming. Three referendums are slated to be on the ballot in the fall, dealing with a penny sales tax, separation of church and state in schools, and the potential creation of education vouchers. Ms. Bartleman expressed concern over the wording of the third amendment, as it was lengthy and the voucher proposal was not mentioned right away. She felt voters could be misled if they failed to read the amendment in its entirety.

She noted that the amendments were set forth by the Special Taxation Commission, which was intended to deal strictly with tax issues in the State of Florida. As some felt the Commission had overreached with this proposed amendment, a lawsuit is being filed against the referendum before it reaches the ballot. Ms. Bartleman said the School Board is providing "tremendous leadership" on this issue.

She also told the Board that while many counties have laid off teachers and staff, Broward County is freezing positions instead so no new hires are brought in. Ms. Bartleman felt this was due to Broward County's preparation for recent cuts in education. She also said the School Board tries to "keep things as they are" so the effects of budget cuts are minimized in the classrooms whenever possible.

Ms. Deaner asked Ms. Bartleman to elaborate on the 30-minute Physical Education (PE) requirement for schools. Ms. Bartleman described this as an "unfunded mandate" for Sunland Park, which did not have sufficient students to "generate" a PE teacher. Funds for PE teachers were taken out of general revenue at Sunland Park.

Ms. Bartleman said PE lesson plans are part of the curriculum, and if the PE teacher was not available 30 minutes a day, the elementary teachers are expected to take up this curriculum. She said the lesson plans are available online for this purpose.

C. Old/Ongoing Business

1. Sunland Park – Update

Chair Hays shared an email received from EAB member Laura Clark regarding the possibility of establishing a volunteer program to read to students over the summer. Ms. Clark provided a contact number for anyone interested in volunteering for the existing summer program at Sunland Park, which consists of play and sports activities and ends the first week of July. There was not a summer program currently in schools that was geared toward reading or other academics.

Ms. Clark's letter continued that she had contacted her local YMCA representative, who informed her that they are not currently involved with any Fort Lauderdale schools. The Boys & Girls Club of America is active within the school system, but children must attend programs at the Club's centers, not in the schools themselves.

2. Parent Association – Update

Chair Hays informed the Board that the Parent Association is currently “on hold.”

3. Chair Report

Chair Hays also said the City Commission has approved a Centennial Committee. Its appointees were announced at the recent City Commission meeting. Chair Hays said she would like to have Committee members’ input regarding the schools’ and the EAB’s participation in Centennial events. The Fort Lauderdale Centennial occurs in 2011.

Chair Hays reminded the Board that *News & Views* was now available, and mentioned in particular the positive news regarding FCAT results. It also reports that Dillard High School has named its football field in honor of late Coach Otis Gray, who was notable not only for his success as a football coach but for his service to the community of Fort Lauderdale.

Chair Hays asked that the minutes reflect these accomplishments of Fort Lauderdale’s schools.

4. Other Reports/Updates/Discussion

a. Education Forum/Subcommittee Updates

Chair Hays reported there was no new information regarding the Educational Forum. She planned to meet with School Board member Maureen Dinnen over the summer to explore the possibility of obtaining a report in the fall of all the subcommittee had accomplished in 2008.

b. Steering Committee

Ms. Deaner will meet with Steering Committee member Mary Fertig to ask her to hold a PowerPoint presentation regarding Citizens Concerned about our Children (CCC). As the Board does not meet in July, this is tentatively intended for August 21, 2008, or September 18, 2008.

c. Student Member to the EAB

Discussion of this position is still on hold.

d. City Commission/Manager Follow-up

No updates from the City Manager's Office were available.

e. Reports & Updates

Broward County School District – C. Webster

Chair Hays thanked Mr. Webster for his involvement in arranging the meeting at Old Dillard Museum.

Mr. Webster told the Board he had spoken with a member of the Facilities Department Initiative who was interested in addressing the Board on the issue of "green" schools. He would be available to make this presentation in August or September, Mr. Webster said. Green schools are an integral part of the initiative.

Chair Hays asked Mr. Webster if he had any objections to putting a copy of *News & Views* up on the City Council website. Mr. Webster said he would find out if this was appropriate, but doubted there would be a conflict, as it was not considered privileged information.

He then mentioned that some time back, plans for the Fort Lauderdale Centennial had been discussed, and asked the Board to think about the possibility of holding a contest that would or would not involve students, as well as exactly what might be the focus of such a contest.

Chair Hays reiterated that she would contact the City Commission's appointees to the Centennial Committee, and would approach them regarding potential ideas for the EAB's involvement. She noted that the Centennial Committee would be seeking sponsors for some of their events, and that this would provide a good opportunity for community sponsors to partner with the schools.

Ms. Shelley suggested that Chair Hays might attend some of the Centennial Committee's open meetings.

Mr. Webster advised that the best course of action would be to bring a plan to the Centennial Commission, letting them know that the Board was considering holding a contest with a particular theme.

Chair Hays said perhaps in the fall, the Board could form a committee to come up with some ideas for ways to approach the Centennial Commission.

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations – B. Shelley

Ms. Shelley said Fort Lauderdale's new Chief of Police had addressed the most recent Council meeting. The Council had prepared a list of questions from all the City's neighborhoods that had been intended to be presented to the former Chief; the new Chief addressed these as best he could, she said.

One proposal raised was a "Police and Fire Appreciation Day" and "Night Out Against Crime" to be held August 5, 2008 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Ms. Shelley said the event would be held in Holiday Park, with participation from various neighborhoods.

The Ad Hoc Committee, she said, has been working on code items desired by City neighborhoods, and has interviewed some consultants to take over the work on these issues, as staff did not have sufficient time to do it all themselves.

Chair Hays said the Council's Crime Committee met the previous night (June 18, 2008), and discussed the questions asked of the Chief at the recent Council meeting. Crime had been determined to be the greatest issue faced by the Council. It was suggested during the discussion that with the current state of the economy, crime in the City is likely to increase. Chair Hays told the Board she has agreed to chair this particular committee for the next six months.

Chair Hays mentioned that she had seen some recent articles regarding School Resource Officers (SROs) and the resistance of some towns and cities to funding this position. In Fort Lauderdale, she noted, in the middle and high schools (currently none in elementary schools), \$12,000 is provided to fund a single SRO.

Mr. Webster said an upcoming School Board meeting will attempt to raise this contribution to funding by 50%. He believed the Mayor is in favor of this proposed increase.

Ms. Xanthos inquired as to the annual salary of an SRO. Ms. Deaner said with necessary special education training, the cost is roughly \$100,000.

Mr. Webster said one way to assist the SRO on campus was the "single point of entry" proposal, which is intended to secure the campus.

D. New/Future Business

Ms. Xanthos suggested since it is often difficult to obtain a quorum at Board meetings, a conference call might address this issue. She recommended a speaker phone. It was agreed that the Board would need to find out if the Sunshine Law prohibited the practice. Ms. Eccles said she would look into this.

Chair Hays said the best way to address the issue was to ensure that the Board has members who make the commitment to attend meetings. The criteria for membership were briefly discussed, including the stipulation that all Board members have children in the City school system and must live or work within City limits. Chair Hays said the Board needed members who knew the Fort Lauderdale schools.

Chair Hays reminded the Board that there will be no meeting in July.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.